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Farmer's and Gardener's Remembrancer.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

FODDERING CATTLE.

[Concluded from page 130.]

It is of very great importance that your barn yard be provided with pure and wholesome water, especially if the winter food of your cattle consists chiefly, or altogether of hay, straw, or other dry food. It has been ascertained that a bullock, who has water at command will drink of it eight times a day.* Dr. Anderson says, in substance, that particular attention should be paid, not only that cattle have water in plenty, but that it be of a good quality and that he knew a man, who became very rich by being *great* in such *little* matters; or, in other words, by attending, carefully, to things, which mankind in general consider of too little consequence to command much attention. This man always made it a point to see that his cattle, particularly his milch-cows, should have a constant supply of the *purest* water, and he would not suffer any animal to put a foot into it, or even let it be tainted by their breath. Cattle, which are obliged to wander away to some distance from the yard for water, through deep snows, and slippery paths, exposed to be harrassed by dogs, and gored by each other, or by neighboring cattle, suffer more than is generally imagined. Nor is this all, rather than adventure on such a pilgrimage, they generally stay about the yard, and loiter along the highway, eating snow for a livelihood, which chills them, causes them to have the *horn distemper*, (a disease brought on by poor keeping) and other injuries then and there does (as the lawyers would phrase it) against the peace and dignity of their owner. You likewise lose a great part of their manure, as well as their thrift; and you must either send somebody, or go yourself, and escort your cattle to water, or you must leave your barn yard bars down, or gate open, that the poor animals may wait on themselves to their watering place. Then, in addition to the inconveniences, and losses above mentioned, your yard is thronged with your neighbors' colts, and other half-starved ill bred quadrupeds, who pay no regard to the rights of *meum* and *tuum*, but steal all the fodder they can lay their mouths on. Then you drive the said four footed plunderers to the pound; and thence cometh lawsuits, quarrelling among neighbors, poverty, profane language, and other evils natural and moral, too numerous for recapitulation. Therefore, Mr. Cultivator, instead of taking your cattle to water, please to take water to your cattle, yea, even in a thimble, an egg-shell, or, the crown of your hat, if you can find nothing bigger or better, or we shall put you down *a bad husbandman!*

We have heretofore, in a number of instances, recommended the use of roots for feeding and fattening cattle, &c. But as the majority of New England farmers do not raise any roots, except the potatoe, in any considerable quantities, we shall here mention some uses to which that very important root may be applied, as food for horses, neat cattle, sheep, &c.

* *Code of Agriculture.*

POTATOES FOR COWS, AND OTHER NEAT CATTLE.—In Mr. Arthur Young's Annals of Agriculture, vol. xv. is a detailed account of potatoes being used for feeding cows, together with cut straw, which concludes as follows:

"The result of these experiments was that potatoes occasioned the milk at first to diminish, [in cows which have not been used to them,] which may be supposed to arise from the change of food, for it required nearly eight days to accustom the beast to that food, which afterwards augmented their milk about a quart. I also made some observations on the quality of the milk; but it will take up too much time to give my observations on that head in detail. It will be sufficient to observe that the first day, the milk appeared to have less cream, and gave about one seventh less butter than before, and kept in this state about five or six days; after which the milk became thicker, and the cream upon it was in greater quantity. Without becoming yellow, the butter was less white, and many people, who tasted of it thought it more pleasant, but that difference was not apparent to me." The quantity given to those cows, was thirty pounds raw potatoes, and twelve pounds of cut straw to each *per diem*.*

Mr. Marshall, an eminent English agriculturist says, "Potatoes are more nutritious; and in the opinion of those, who have used them, fat cattle much quicker than either turnips or cabbages, and if properly laid up, are a food, which may be continued without inconvenience, until the cattle are finished or the grass has acquired the requisite growth for finishing them in the field."

POTATOES FOR HORSES.—A correspondent of Mr. Young [see Young's Annals, vol. i. page 21.] says, "I had a peck of potatoes, boiled every day, after dinner was cooked in my kitchen, and given to my saddle horses, a quarter of a peck each daily, on which they did their work well as long as they lasted, that is upwards of two months, instead of oats; only a trifling quantity of which were now and then given. If they were roasted on kilns, as I understand is the practice in some parts of England, and mixed with ground oats, it would, I imagine, be a great saving in oats and a more hearty food."

Another correspondent of Mr. Young [see Young's Annals, vol i. p. 235.] says, "Not having any potatoes of my own, I bought some of a neighbor, to try them in horse feeding, and from the result prefer them to carrots. They were given raw, but washed, to saddle horses, each having a peck a day, and no oats whatever.—The horses were worked moderately, the same as on oats, did their work well and were in good order. At first they scoured, but it soon went off, and the potatoes did no more than keep their bodies gently open."

Another writer in the same work affirms "that potatoes are far superior to turnips, in feeding, to the amount of one third, both being used in equal time. I never had horses in so good condition as when fed upon potatoes. They are a certain remedy for a horse with swoln legs, or out of condition in other cases, and disorders inwardly, one peck a day. They are accounted good for hunters, giving them the day after they have had a severe run, eight or ten large potatoes. Likewise a writer in the 16th volume of Young's Annals, states, in substance, that a gentleman feeds his horses in the following manner. Half a bushel of boiled potatoes is mixed with a bushel of chaff, (and more if it abounds;) the roots are boiled in a basket, which is let in and drawn out by a pulley. One woman washes and boils 25 bushels a day. With this food horses have no oats. He has men that keep horses at work for him, who buy potatoes in preference to oats. The old horses, that used to go down [lose flesh] in winter, do better on potatoes than even in summer.

POTATOES FOR SHEEP.—"Gen. Murray uses potatoes for fattening sheep, as well as for lean stock. He has now 196 fat weathers, that eat very near 14 bushels of potatoes and 100 weight of hay *per diem:* it may be reckoned 14 bushels for 200 sheep. If they have as many potatoes as they will eat, they do not require more than half a pound of hay each per diem.—*Young's Annals*, vol. ii. p. 235.

It will be proper in feeding cattle with potatoes, or other roots to give them but a small quantity at first, increasing it by degrees as they become accustomed to that sort of food. It will be better to give a little every day than a large mess, once in three or four days or a week.

Mr. Deane observed that "When a farmer thinks that he has too much stock for his fodder as will sometimes be the case, it is not best to pinch them in their allowance as much in the fore part of winter as in the latter part. For the cattle are more liable to be pinched with cold, in December and January, than afterwards. And no man knows how favorable the latter part of winter may be. Advantage also may be made of browsing in the latter part more than in the fore part of winter, as the buds then begin to swell and the twigs have more sap in them than before."

* It may be well, however, to state in this place that the Farmer's Assistant is opposed to using potatoes for the purpose of feeding milch cows. That writer says, "We never should advise to feed milch cows with potatoes, either boiled or raw; as we have frequently known cows to be greatly lessened in their quantity of milk, by being fed on this root." It is probable, however, that in the instances to which the Farmer's Assistant alludes, the cows were not fed with potatoes long enough to become accustomed to them. Mr. Young says that potatoes caused the milk *at first* to diminish, but after eight days its quantity was increased.

From the Massachusetts Yeoman.

IRRIGATION.

Further Extracts, by the Editor, from the Manuscript of a practical Farmer.

I have irrigated hard land seven years—and soft, four years. The hard has nearly doubled in crop, once in every three years—the soft in two. If I had been supplied with a plenty of water, I cannot doubt I should have realized twice the quantity of the hard land's crop in two years; but at the time when most needed, my brook was generally almost dry.

* * * * *

He that begins wrong need not expect to end well. I have informed some people that at the harvest I reap across and bind returning, and shock all before quitting work. This has been imitated and attended with considerable loss, occasioned *by beginning wrong*. According to tradition, or custom, they enclosed large quantities in long bands, drawn strenuously close by a severe pull, excluding the circulation of air from the enclosed grain. They found that this husbandry would not answer—mouldy straw and musty grain was the consequence. My sheaves are small, and bands so loose that those who have not left their *strenuous pull*, judge it would all spill out—Now he that begins wrong to irrigate, finds the land will not produce well without manure. In one case, the sheaves are too large—in the other, *the trenches are too small.*

* * * * *

We need not much fear drifting too much water on either dry or wet land.—But, as some farmers must wait till the dew is gone before they will allow hay to be opened, so they must wait till the flood is gone before they will have the water.

* * * * *

Water should *pass over*, and not *remain on*, irrigated land. This I find to be essentially necessary, both for soft and hard meadow. Where soft meadows have a narrow outlet, it often happens that half or a whole acre, according to its strait, is ponded near the outlet, in time of a flood. On this, we may suppose more sediment is deposited than on the oxbow bend. Yet here grass will not be so large nor so good as on the bend. Farmers will generally recognize this.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal.

ROCKINGHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Committee appointed to examine the claims for premiums upon Crops—Report:

That they recommend premiums to be awarded as follows, viz:—

First premium on Wheat $8 to Mr. John Gordon of Exeter. The quantity was 39 bushels and one peck upon one acre and 56 rods of land.

First premium on Corn, $12 to Thomas Jenness, Esq. of Deerfield. The quantity was 100 bushels and nine quarts upon one acre of land.

Second premium on Corn, $8 to Mr. John Gordon, of Exeter. The quantity was 78 1-2 bushels upon one acre and ten rods of land.

The premium on Carrots, $6 to Mr. Bradbury Robinson, of Greenland. The quantity was 91 1-2 bushels upon one quarter of an acre of land.

The premium on White Beans, $5 to Simon Magoon, Esq. of East Kingston. The quantity was 11 bushels 3 1-2 pecks upon half an acre of land.

Of the sum of nearly one hundred dollars appropriated by the Society for premiums upon the different crops, the above sums of much less than one half the amount for want of competitors, are all that your committee can recommend to be awarded. The evidence of the claimants and their statements of the manner of cultivation, &c. were conformable to the regulations of the Society and are transmitted herewith for their consideration.

Your committee would here present to the society their own views of the different *modes* of cultivation pursued by the several competitors, with such remarks as occurred to them from the examination of the evidence in relation to their claims, if they did not feel discouraged from such labor, by a conviction, that a difficulty exists not much in the *power* to *produce great crops*, as in so *grossly erroneous opinion*, with a large portion of the community, as to the *expediency* and *utility* of that system of cultivation necessary to effect that object.

The first great and common objection is, that it is *expensive* and *unprofitable* to the farmer. This deserves a moments consideration, and for those who do not take assertions *often repeated for proof*, it can require no more. We entreat those who make this objection, to examine the subject, and with all the certainty of mathematical demonstration to undeceive themselves. Your committee have satisfactory evidence before them, that the land on which the largest wheat crop was raised, may be fairly valued at about fifty dollars the acre.

A years interest of which sum at 6 per cent is	$3	
Cost of two ploughings, one in fall and one in spring,	3	
Harrowing,	2	
Two and a half bushels of seed at 9s.	3	75
Harvesting,	3	
Thrashing and cleaning,	4	50
Whole cost of crop and use of land,	$19	25
Value thirty-nine bushels and one peck wheat at 9s. per bushel,	$58	87 1-2
	19	25
Net profit on the above crop,	$39	62 1-2

One acre of corn land, valued $50 per acre, interest on which for one year at 6 per cent,	$3	
Ploughing in fall,	2	
Ploughing in spring and planting,	5	50
Seed corn,		75
Hoeing three times,	4	50
Cutting stalks, harvesting, husking,	4	
Expence of manure,	20	
	$39	75
By value of one hundred bushels corn, at 67 cents,	$67	
By stocks and butts,	10	
	$77	
	39	75
Net profit on one acre of corn,	$37	25

But it is said the system of confining cultivation so as to secure great crops, is not actually unprofitable, still it is not the best.

First, because the same expense on more ground will yield a better income.

Again let us refer to facts and calculations.

The difference between a crop, such as the one to which the premium is awarded, and the more common one of from 30 to 50 bushels per acre, is occasioned principally by applying to one acre the quantity of manure usually distributed to three acres, with also a little more attention in ploughing.

Suppose then 3 acres of land to be planted, valued at $50 per acre, the interest is	$9	
All the other expenses will amount as much per acre as for the best crop (except the manure) and amount as by former estimate to	$50	15
Manure,	20	
	79	15
Allow an average crop of 40 bushels per acre, at 67 cts. 120 bushels,	80	40
Value of stocks and butts,	12	
	$92	40
	79	15
Net profit of 2 acres corn,	$13	25

A certain quantity of any crop raised is in payment for the labor and expense. It is the amount beyond that only, that is profit—and the great object then surely should be to increase that part of the quantity which is the profit. For instance, if 50 bushels of corn only pay the expense of cultivation, he who raises 60 bushels with the same labor as he who raises 55, makes double the profit, though his quantity is increased only five bushels.

Your committee would feel bound to apologize for detaining you with calculations so plain and apparent to all who have an acquaintance with the first rudiments of arithmetic, were not the objections we have stated still every day urged, and had it not been heard in our hall of legislation.

A second objection urged to limiting the quantity of tillage is, that the grass lands demand frequent ploughing and, if neglected, they soon are bound out. They do become so upon the system of running over them without dressing; the plough of itself, in grass land, does very little but produce a temporary effect upon the soil, which scarcely is perceived in a second season, and the same argument that should induce us to cultivate in a manner to produce the greatest crop of corn, or grain, proves the utility of the system in relation to crops that are to succeed.

A premium is offered by the society for the largest quantity of any vegetable, profitable for feeding cattle, for which no claim is made, while the keeping of stock for beef and for the dairy is so great a part of the business of every farmer in this section of the country. Your committee cannot but consider the fact, that no claim is made for this premium as a striking proof of a want of attention to the great object of economy in the mode of supporting cattle through our long and expensive winters. Expensive they surely are, when a stock of cattle is supported entirely upon hay. Two tons of hay is justly esteemed a very liberal crop from an acre of mowing, and suppose the expense of it to be but half that of growing an acre of potatoes; the same land will yield from 3 to 400 bushels, which cannot be denied to be equal to three times that quantity of hay. While 800 bushels of carrots may be produced from an acre of land, by labor which may be performed in a manner and at times, much more convenient than is usually required for making hay. To those who have made such roots a part of the food for their cattle, through the winter months, it need not be said, that it is much better as it is cheaper, than keeping them entirely upon hay. No claim is made for a premium on Barley, a crop, which if not great, is always here more certain than most other grain, and is always a cash article in the market.

Your committee cannot believe, that it is for want of suitable crops of potatoes, that no claim is this year made for a premium in that highly valuable root. While our farmers are every day learning to appreciate its value, it has already become an extensive article of sale to all who convey it to market. Gentlemen of very accurate calculation, and who have means of ascertaining, have estimated, that no less than $40,000 was paid the last year for potatoes in the market of Portsmouth alone.

From the apparent inattention of farmers to the invitations of the Society, and from the tone of complaint, which perhaps prevails too much

in the statement of your committee, they may be asked if they despair of the society and the object of its institution? We answer at once by no means. We look upon the art of agriculture, as the first employment of the human race in their state of primeval innocence. Their occupation in the garden of paradise was "to till and to dress it." We look upon it as that pursuit of all others best adapted to our country and government. If the estimates, which we have made upon the best evidence, are not entirely erroneous, we have shewn it to be an employment, that yields its most liberal reward. If farmers do not accumulate such fortunes as the money letter, by his 10, 12 or 20 per cent. may jew out of his unfortunate neighbors, it is not because his per cent. is not as great—but because the usurer has acquired that habit of economy in fractions and fragments, which makes the estate.

Still your committee believe the science of agriculture, while it is pleasant and profitable, to be one of the most complicated and least understood of any to which the attention of man has been directed.

In this country particularly, there has been no occasion for its study. In our new lands, the fire opened our fields, the husbandman was called upon for little, save the seed—and took his crop asking no questions why or wherefore.

While every other, the simplest art or trade has its instructors, every profession its tutors and lecturers, neither our schools, academies, or colleges, have ever placed a book on this science upon the long catalogue of their studies. The consequence is, agriculture is pursued by adherance to customs and to traditions handed down from a period in our country and a state of society, which makes them in many respects unfited to the present time.

Your committee are no advocates of speculative innovations, merely for their novelty, but they would not with the obstinacy of the Scotchman continue to go to mill with their corn in one end of the bag, balanced by a rock in the other, merely because it was the practice of their ancestors. And it is with pleasure your committee can state, that a spirit of rational improvement is gradually, although slowly making progress in the community. Our literary institutions, many of them seem to have discovered that the great "art of all arts" is not unworthy of their attention. Gentlemen of learning and scientific research have "taken hold of the plough," with a resolution that will not easily be turned back. The nature of our different soils—their adaptation to different crops—the properties of manures, and the comparative advantages of different modes of cultivation, begin to be understood, and their importance to be felt. Let these considerations then cheer us amid the partial discouragements that at present surround us. Our own interest—the interests of our fellow men—of our country, demand a perseverance in our efforts. They will ultimately be crowned with success.

ICHABOD BARTLETT,
BENJAMIN PILSBURY,
Oct. 15, 1823. JOSEPH W. MARCH.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—*Velocity of Sound as a Measure of Distances.*—The Philosophical Transactions of the present year contain an able paper from J. Goldinham, Esq. F. R. S. on the velocity with which sound travels under various circumstances. The paper is far too voluminous for our columns; and we shall merely state, that the observations were made by noticing the intervals between the *flash* and the *report* of two twenty four pounders, at known distances from the observer, who was stationed at the Madras Observatory. The results of his numerous experiments confirm those of previous observers, that the mean velocity of sound is about 1142 feet per second.

We have long been of opinion that the velocity of sound might be rendered available for measuring distances for a variety of purposes, such as estimating the distance between ships, or any given objects at sea; and with still greater accuracy for measuring distances on land, which might be accomplished in the following manner:—Suppose it be desirable to determine the distance of a ship from a battery, or other station on shore provided with cannon. With a fort, where a morning and evening gun are fired, the object can be attained without any concert with the shore, by an observer on board the ship being provided with a tolerably good seconds' watch, and noticing the interval between the flash of the gun and the report. This may be done to the fraction of a second, by counting the beats of a watch during the interval. Now as the ordinary seconds' watch makes about 25 beats in 10 seconds, the distance may be very nearly estimated by allowing 456 8 or 457 feet for the beat of a watch. Thus 40 beats, or 16 seconds, would give a distance or 6091 yards; or about 60 yards short of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Although the flash of a gun is not visible at any considerable distance by day light, yet on a clear day the smoke issuing from a large piece of ordnance is almost as instantaneous as that of the flash, and by attentive observation it would give almost equally accurate results.

In the department of Military Engineering, this method of determining distances would be extremely valuable; as it might be applied in many instances where actual measurement would be quite impractible; such as across a river or ravine, or in case of the occupation of the intermediate ground by an enemy.

In Civil Engineering and Land Surveying, it might also be applied with considerable advantages, in the following manner:—Two persons being stationed on elevated ground within sight of each, one being provided with a strong fowling piece, (or rather a blunderbuss for greater effect) and the other with an ordinary seconds' watch.—The interval between the flash and the report, as before mentioned, is to be carefully noted by the observer; who for the sake of greater accuracy, might be assisted by a third person, in order to mark the instant of the discharge. It might also be preferable to choose the dawn of day for the operations in order to render the flash from the fire arms more distinctly visible. By repeating the experiment a few times, and taking the mean of the observations, a sufficient degree of accuracy would be attainable by this method for any of the ordinary purposes of land surveying. It is proper to remark that, should the wind set *towards* the observer, at the time, from five to ten feet per second should be added to the estimated distance. If, on the contrary the wind blows from the observer, the same amount is to be *subtracted* from the distance, as estimated at the rate of 1142 feet per second.

The distance of a thunder cloud from an observer might also be very nearly estimated, by noticing the interval between the electric discharge and the thunder. This, however, would be a mere point of curiosity, while in the former cases (and others which might be named) this mode of measuring distances would be at once economical, and sufficiently accurate for general purposes.

From the Boston Evening Intelligencer.

Hydrostatic Press.—We have seen a machine of this description, made in this city by Mr. Eben A. Lester, which, as far as we can judge, is quite perfect in its mechanical construction. We are not aware that the Hydrostatic Press has often been manufactured in this country; but we are confident from the information we have obtained that none superior to this has often been received from G. Britain. The power of the machine extends to a pressure of 150 tons; it is generally employed, at from 68 to 100 tons, which is sufficient for all common purposes. The use of these presses, we believe, has generally superseded that of the improved screw press, in England; and upon the slightest inspection, it is evident they possess the most manifest advantages over all others. A screw is one of the mechanical powers most impeded in its operation by friction; but in the Hydraulic [*Hydrostatic*] Press the effect of the screw is produced by forcing water, with a forcing pump, under a metalic cylinder, confined in a cylindrical tube of great strength, by which it is raised, against a fixed iron plane above; and the power of pressure which may be given is only limited by the strength of the machinery itself. It is clear that in such a machine there can be but little friction; hence one source of the advantage it possesses over the screw press. A person with a moderate exertion of his own strength applied to the handle of the forcing pump, can produce a pressure of 100 tons by merely injecting a small quantity equal to a common tumbler within the hollow iron cylinder below. The Hydraulic [*Hydrostatic*] Press exhibits one of the most interesting instances of curious experiments applied to the common purposes of life, that can be found among the multiplied examples of ingenious machinery.

From the Dumfries Courier.

Voracity of the Cod Fish.—A short time ago a cod-fish, of the rock species, was caught in the bay of Luce, and dissected by a correspondent, on whose accuracy we can rely. In the stomach of this aquatic glutton there were found no fewer than seven lobsters, besides fragments of smaller fish. One of the lobsters weighed 15 ounces, and three of them, which were taken out alive, looked as fresh and fair as if they had never "crossed the craig" of the voracious cod. The gastric juice of the cod must of course be extremely powerful; but if the largest lobster had used his fore finger and thumb to as good purpose as we have seen divers of his kind do, he might have easily, we think have sprung a leak under the lower fin of his devourer, and, by a trifling exertion of muscular power, piloted his way back to father Ocean.

Extracts from an Address delivered before the "Society of Middlesex Husbandmèn and Manufacturers," on their anniversary at Concord, Mass. October 2, 1823. By Josiah Adams, Esq.

"Permit me, my brethren of the Society, to congratulate you that, in our meetings here from year to year, we are cheered with the smiles of the public.—All classes seem to have united in patronizing the first, and the noblest of the arts. The learned, and the unlearned, have combined for mutual benefit, and those jealousies, which, in other concerns, arrest the progress of improvement, are not known among us—scientific speculations, adapted to practical purposes, are read with avidity, and weighed with candor. The great change, in this respect, which has taken place in the public mind, must be particularly refreshing to the early members of this Society, who began and continued their useful exertions, against the blasts of ridicule, and the tide of popular prejudice.

"In regard to the propriety and utility of Cattle Shows, there was formerly much difference of opinion. The objects of them were not understood, and they were opposed, even by men of good sense, as causing a waste of money, and as having no tendency whatever to advance the agricultural interest. They were considered an addition to the number of idle holidays, and great vice and immorality were predicted as their certain attendants. And though *Derry Fair* and *Concord Courts* were going fast out of fashion, a Cattle Show was worst of all!—and the poor, innocent little town of Brighton, was viewed like the great city of Nineveh, in which were "*four score thousand souls, that knew not their right hand from their left, and also much cattle;*" and whoso refused to *preach against it*, was devoured by the great land *whale* of public opinion. In short, men would *strain at a* PLOUGHING MATCH, *and swallow a* HORSE RACE!

"But such prejudices are now extremely rare. Great decorum has prevailed; authority has been given by law to preserve order, and, on these occasions, we have the satisfaction of meeting our most useful and respectable citizens—our most considerate and industrious farmers. Indeed it seems now to be generally admitted, that to those meetings, and to the exertions connected with them, we are principally indebted for the wonderful improvements which have been made in husbandry. A comparison and interchange of opinions and views have been effected—a unity of feeling and action—a spirit of emulation and a just self-respect have been created, which have greatly improved the situation, and multiplied the enjoyments of the farmer—have given him new views of his condition new motives to exertion, and opened upon him bright prospects of comfort and usefulness, which he had supposed confined to other classes of society.

"The power of habit, and the charm of hereditary custom, have been gradually subdued. Men have learned to *think*, as well as to labor—and not only to think, but to listen to the suggestions and speculations of others. Men of leisure, of property, and of talents, have aspired to become acquainted with the principles of good husbandry, and, by their valuable speculations and experiments, have very much assisted practical men in their efforts to improve.* It is much to the honor of the yeomanry of New-England, that it is growing less and less fashionable to undervalue philosophical disquisitions and experiments. Men read and think on the philosophy of agriculture, as they do on all other subjects. The farmer, whose education does not always enable him to see the connexion between cause and effect, does not feel bound, by the fashion of the times, to disbelieve the existence of such connexion; and this is but applying that common sense to the management of his farm, which he is accustomed to use on all other occasions. Most men are necessarily ignorant of the process of the astronomer in calculating an eclipse—in determining the moment of the sun's rising and setting—and the exact times in which the planets perform their revolutions; but they do not therefore question the truth of his predictions; and the man, who should avow a disbelief of the Almanac, would be accounted the greatest of all infidels! Implicit faith is not, and indeed should not, be yielded to every theory, which finds its way to the public through the press—some caution is undoubtedly necessary in adopting new methods of cultivation—particularly those, which have not been fully proved by experiment; and even those methods, which have been found profitable under certain circumstances, may be useless, and perhaps very detrimental, in all other cases. A great variety of things are to be considered—the difference of climate and of soil—the facility of obtaining manure—the price of labor—the distance from the market—and a multitude of other incidents, which will readily occur to a thinking and discreet mind. A man of such a mind will not be deterred from making improvement, by any seeming difficulty in determining what may be profitable. He will see that husbandry is indeed an art of a very superior order. Not like some of the mechanical arts, which are little else than mere habits, which, being once acquired, are pursued with little or no mental exertion. He will perceive that his progress depends not so much on the labor of his hands, as in assigning to those hands their proper employment. And, by thus dividing his task between the body and the mind, he lessens his toil—increases his gains—and procures a new source of mental enjoyment.

"The attention which is paid in New England to the subject of EDUCATION, has given to all classes a source of happiness, which is enjoyed in no other country; and some, at least, of our practical farmers are capable of considering agriculture in its connexion with the sciences. Its dependence on the science of chemistry in particular has given to our subject an interest and importance among the learned, which has proved of great public utility. Chemistry teaches the simple substances of which the material world is composed—the different compounds which nature is continually forming in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, and the decompositions, which consequently take place; together with the manner of producing the same effects, by the assistance of art. And, by showing what simple substances are necessary to the formation of certain compounds, it informs us what kinds of soil, and what manures, and other substances, are to be united, to bring forth the various products of the farm. It teaches us that two substances, which singly are of no value, if united in certain proportions, will form a valuable soil; and that the addition of a third, which may be, in itself, perfectly harmless, may render the compound useless and barren. We ascertain, for instance, the proportions in which clay and sand should be mixed, and when, and in what proportions, lime, ashes, or vegetable substances should be added to the composition, and this, with as much certainty as attend experiments in other branches of science. *Agricultural chemistry is essential to good husbandry, and every farmer should be acquainted with its general principles.*

"There is no idea more unfounded," says Sir Humphrey Davy, in the introduction to his lectures on agricultural chemistry, "than that a great devotion of time, and minute knowledge of general chemistry are necessary for pursuing experiments on the nature of soil, or the properties of manures. Nothing can be more easy, than to discover whether a soil effervesces, or changes color, by the action of an acid—or whether it burns when heated, or what weight it loses by heat. And yet these simple indications may be of great importance in a system of cultivation. The expense, connected with chemical enquiries, is very trifling. A small closet is sufficient for containing all the materials that are required. The most important experiments may be made by means of a small portable apparatus—A few phials, a few acids, a lamp, and crucible are all that are necessary."

"Next in importance to the great business of preparing for a better world, is to know how to live comfortably in this; and the goodness of the CREATOR appears in nothing more conspicuous, than in having made the support of ourselves and families an essential part of *religious duty*. "*Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy*," is an injunction of no greater authority, and no more intended to form our moral and religious character, than the command, "*six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work;*" and, since "*he that provideth not for his own house is worse than an infidel*," it is therefore a religious duty to improve ourselves, and each other, in a knowledge of the arts, by which property is acquired—and as no one of these can rank in importance with the art of agriculture, we have reason to feel much satisfaction in finding ourselves again assembled, for such excellent and noble purposes. And, to strengthen our exertions, allow me to conclude with a passage from the author before cited.

"Many of the sciences are ardently pursued, and considered proper objects of study for all refined minds, merely on account of the intellectual pleasure they afford; merely because they enlarge our views of nature, and enable us to think more correctly with respect to the beings and objects which surround us. How much more then is this department of enquiry worthy of our attention, in which the pleasure resulting from the love of truth and knowledge, is as great as in any other branch of philosophy, and, in which it is likewise connected with much greater benefits and advantages"—*Nihil est melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.*

"Discoveries made in the cultivation of the earth are not merely for the time, and country,

* The pecuniary means of most men are inadequate to the trial of uncertain experiments.—The community are therefore much indebted to those who have so readily met the necessary expenses.

in which they are developed—but they may be considered as extending to future ages, and as ultimately tending to benefit the whole human race; as affording subsistence to generations yet to come; as multiplying life, and providing for its enjoyment."

From the American Farmer.

Powelton, Philad. County, July 1, 1823.

DEAR SIR,—Your profitable management, much more, than the high state of cultivation, in which the officers of the society found your farm, leads me to desire, not merely a statement of the system, you pursue, in the preparation of your soil—the arrangement of your fields—the rotation of your crops—but the mode of securing your fodder—feeding your cattle—and the application of their manure. I was struck, by the appearance of your stock, and gratified, at finding, that our opinions, and practice perfectly coincide, in the preparation of hay, and distribution of it in hay houses, instead of huge mows.

I have thought, the parade of Pennsylvania barns, about as profitable as the decoration of our fine blue waggons, or the musical bells attached to our teams. The ingenious mode adopted to deprive our grasses, of their most valuable, and nutritious parts, is so absurd, that it long since would have been abandoned, I should hope, had not our prejudices in favor of old usages, which generally keep practical farmers right, in this instance put us all wrong.

In good weather, most crops of grasses, can be secured without being shaken from the swarth. My uniform practice for many years has been to allow my grass to remain nearly two days, untouched, to gather it by an horse rake, cock it in the *hot part* of the day, salt it, and place it in an hay house, which admits a free circulation of air. My clover like yours, retains much of the color of its blossoms, and leaves. The advantage of pitching hay, from the carriage into "a bank barn," does not counterbalance, the expense of labor in preparing, the loss of nutrition in drying, and the great danger of fire from heating, as well as from the escape of moisture, which so often in this climate, attracts lightning, to the utter destruction of the building, and all the hopes of the farm.

The convenience of feeding, has also been brought to aid the arguments, in favor of a great Pennsylvania barn. We owe much of our success, to the industry, care, and skill, of our excellent German population, but I think, it may be questioned, whether the expense they incur, in the arrangement of their farm buildings, is not very often mischievous, not merely useless, in making tender their cattle, and diseasing them by bad hay. It is scarcely possible in this state, where the changes of climate, are sudden and severe, to guard farm stock, from suffering when they are made warm throughout the night, and necessarily, left exposed to the pelting of storms, during part of the day. I am convinced, that milch cows, and very young calves, require protection from cold—all other cattle, if guarded from wet, and currents of wind, feed with more appetite, digest with more ease, work with more vigor, and encounter accidental exposure, with less danger of harm, than if they be confined within thick stone walls, inhaling an impure atmosphere, from which by the instinct of nature, if not thwarted by the ill judged contrivance of man they would fly.

I would suggest, that the position for the farm yard be selected as usual at the foot of a small hill, of which the southern side, should be cut in such manner, as to admit the erection of a barn sufficiently large for all its usual purposes, except that of holding hay, and feeding cattle. Roofs pitching to the South, and sufficiently capacious to protect all the hay, straw, fodder, and stock of the farm should be extended at both gable ends. For the support of the fodder lofts, and roofs, pillars of brick, or stone, should be erected at proper intervals; for the security of the bank, and the road at its edge—a wall somewhat higher, than it, should be built—a space of two feet, should be left, between the northern side of the loft and the wall. Racks should be placed perpendicularly, with their outer edges, exactly corresponding, and parallel with the wall, and side of the loft. Thus a space, of two feet would remain between them and the wall, to be filled with hay. A long shutter, sufficiently wide, may be secured by hinges, attached to posts, on the outer side of the wall—in order that when the rack shall have been filled, by pitching from above, it may be closed, at a proper angle to exclude rain or cold air.

Stalls for cattle, pens for sheep, and calves, should be at fit distances placed beneath the hay—palings, and gates, might secure them on the southern, or outer side. The hay being exposed on two of its sides, would require infinitely less drying, than if pressed closely, in a great mass, within the thick walls of a barn. It is scarcely to be believed, by those, who have not seen the experiment, how little drying, grass requires, when it is to be salted, and thrown lightly, into an open hay house. By beginning at one end of a long loft, and discharging the loads, so as to not more than half fill it, until the hay be extended to the other, by the time, that the end at which the farmer began, shall be quite filled, his hay, in despite of the state, in which it has been hauled, will be sufficiently dry. The advantages, I propose, are the saving of labor in making the hay, of money, in building the barn, of nutrition in not exhausting the grass by unnecessary exposure, to the rays of the sun; and to *practical* farmers, what to them, is of consequence, a return to their pockets, in profit on cattle, which after being exposed from January to July upon hay, and grass alone, may be exposed on Philadelphia shambles with credit to the feeder, as yours have been shown. I am your's, &c.

JOHN HARE POWEL,
Corresponding Sec'ry, Penn. Agricultural Society.

From the Cook's Oracle.

BOILING.

This most simple of Culinary processes is not often performed in perfection,—it does not require quite so much nicety and attendance, as Roasting. To skim your pot well, and keep it really boiling (the slower the better) all the while,—to know how long is required for doing the joint, &c. and to take it up, at the critical moment when it is done enough,—comprehends almost the whole art and mystery. This, however, demands a patient and perpetual vigilance, of which few persons are capable.

The Cook must *take especial care that the water really boils all the while she is cooking, or she will be deceived in the time*; and make up a sufficient fire (a frugal Cook will manage with much less fire for Boiling than she uses for roasting) at first, to last all the time, without much mending or stirring.

When the Pot is coming to a boil, there will always, from the cleanest Meat and clearest Water, rise a Scum to the top of it: proceeding partly from the foulness of the meat, and partly from the water,—this must be carefully taken off as soon as it rises.

On this, depends the good appearance of all boiled things.

When you have scummed well, put in some cold water, which will throw up the rest of the scum.

The oftener it is scummed, and the cleaner the top of the Water is kept, the cleaner will be the Meat.

If let alone, it soon boils down and sticks to the Meat;* which instead of looking delicately white and nice,—will have that coarse and filthy appearance we have too often to complain of, and the Butcher and Poulterer be blamed for the carelessness of the Cook in not scumming her pot.

Many put in Milk, to make what they boil look white; but this does more harm than good:—others wrap it up in a cloth;—but these are needless precautions, if the scum be attentively removed, Meat will have a much more delicate color and finer flavor than it has when muffled up. This may give rather more trouble—but *Those who wish to excel in their Art must only consider how the processes of it can be most perfectly performed*;—a Cook who has a proper pride and pleasure in her business, will make this her maxim on all occasions.

Put your Meat in *cold*† water,—in the proportion of about a quart of Water to a pound of Meat:—it should be covered with water during the whole of the process of Boiling—but not drowned in it—the less water provided the meat be covered with it,—the more Savoury will be the Meat, and the better will be the Broth.

The water should be heated gradually—according to the thickness, &c. of the article boiled—for instance, a Leg of Mutton of 10 pounds weight, (No. 1,) should be placed over a moderate fire, which will *gradually make the water hot, without causing it to boil for about forty minutes*—if the water boils much sooner, the meat will be *hardened*, and shrink up as if it was *scorched*—by keeping the water a certain time heating without boiling, its fibres are dilated, and it yields a quantity of scum, which must be taken off as soon as it rises.

"If a vessel containing water be placed over a steady fire, the water will grow continually hotter till it reaches the limit of boiling, after which the regular accessions of heat, are wholly spent in converting it into Steam—the Water

* If, unfortunately, this should happen, the cook must carefully take it off when she dishes up, either with a clean Sponge or a Paste-brush.

† Cooks, however, as well as Doctors, disagree; for some say, that "all sorts of fresh meat should be put in when the water boils." I prefer the above method, for the reason given—gentle stewing renders Meat, &c. tender, and still leaves it sapid and nutritive.

remains at the same pitch of temperature, however fiercely it boils. The only difference is, that with a strong fire it sooner comes to boil, and more quickly boils away, and is converted into Steam."

The Editor placed a Thermometer in water in that state which Cooks call *gentle simmering*, —the heat was 212°—i. e. the same degree as the *strongest boiling*. Two Mutton Chops were covered with cold water,—and one *boiled a gallop*—and the other *simmered gently* for three quarters of an hour; the Flavor of the Chop which was simmered was decidedly superior to that which was boiled; the *Liquor* which boiled fast, was in like proportion more savory, and, when cold, had much more fat on its surface: this explains why quick boiling renders meat hard, &c. because its juices are extracted in a greater degree.

Reckon the Time *from its first coming to a boil.*

The old rule of 15 minutes to a pound of meat, we think rather too little; the slower it boils, the tenderer, the plumper, and whiter it will be. (*To be continued.*)

Montreal, Nov. 11.—A strange accident took place in a chemist's shop a few days since. A person having put a gallon or two of alçohol upon a stove in a tin vessel, the liquid took fire and exploded with a violent shock. The whole room was filled with smoke; a person endeavoring to escape by the shop door, had opened it partly, and merely put his head out, when the sudden expansion of the air in the room closed the door, caught him by the head, and held him for several seconds, until the conflagration ceased. No other injury than the loss of the liquor, and the fright suffered by the persons present, was sustained.

It is computed that 55,000 barrels of Pot and Pearl Ashes, will have been shipped during the season from the Port of Quebec. This exceeds by nearly twenty thousand the number shipped last year, which was about 38,000

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1823.

Letters of Agricola on the Principles of Vegetation and Tillage.

We have frequently, in the course of our editorial labours, availed ourselves of the information contained in an excellent work on husbandry, entitled "*Letters of Agricola*," &c. written in Nova Scotia, by JOHN YOUNG, Esq, we believe a native of Scotland. Having learned that a few copies of that treatise are for sale, in this city, by Messrs. Wells & Lilly, we are induced to attempt some sketches of its character and merits, with a hope to be instrumental in recommending it to the attention of New England Agriculturists.

If the *merits* of a literary or scientific work may be correctly estimated by the *effects* it has produced—the value of the tree judged of by its fruit—the "Letters of Agricola" may claim a very high standing among the productions of the best writers of the age who have devoted their powers and faculties to the most useful and important of human pursuits. Before this publication, rural labour in Nova Scotia was held in great contempt, and to handle a spade, or direct a plough, was deemed an employment of the meanest and most degrading kind. "Tillage was so much neglected that neither oats, barley, rye, Indian corn, nor wheat, were raised in sufficient abundance to answer half the domestic consumption. Oat meal and pot barley were regular articles of import from Britain, and the latter article was also brought largely from the United States. Indian meal, rye and wheaten flour were landed by thousands of barrels from Boston and New-York not only to supply the inhabitants of the sea ports, but also the farmers in the country." The publication of the "Letters of Agricola" (whose patriotic and scientific exertions received every encouragement from the Governor, Chief Magistrates, and other men of high standing, influence and reputation in the Province) had an effect, which can scarcely be parralleled in the history of arts, or the annals of human improvement. "In the history of no country has there ever been recorded a more radical and instantaneous change, than has been witnessed in Nova Scotia. Improvement has proceeded with such gigantic strides, that already the point is out of sight from which we started; and although the whole has been effected in little more than three years, it is with difficulty that we can bring ourselves to the belief that the provincial husbandry was in such a state of barbarism at its commencement." Agricultural societies were established, cattle shows instituted, new implements and improvements of every kind, introduced, and Nova Scotia, instead of being dependent on other countries for bread corn, and other articles necessary to feed its inhabitants, was enabled not only to supply her wants from her own resources, but to export wheat, and other surplus products of her soil, in considerable quantities.

This great and beneficial change of public opinion, the knowledge of rural economy, and the consequent amelioration of the state of society, and condition of the country was effected by the publication of the "*Letters of Agricola.*" Other causes were, no doubt, auxiliary but those "*Letters*" were the cause of those causes. The writings of Mr. Young, (first published in the Acadian Recorder, and circulated throughout the Province,) furnished the spark, and kindled the flame which pervaded the country. As the author expresses it, "while I thus continued to write, and he [Lord Dalhousie, then Governor of Nova Scotia] to approve, the first characters for rank in the Metropolis did not long stand as idle spectators but touched by the lambent flame of patriotism, they hastened within their respective spheres of influence to scatter and propagate that sacred fire, which soon burst out with irrepressible and inextinguishable brightness."

The work is written in an easy but at the same time an elevated style. The author uses some *hard* words, but a farmer with a common country school education may understand most of them, and those which he does not comprehend, it may be well for him to ascertain the meaning of by methods which are at the command of every farmer in New England, who is in what we call comfortable circumstances.

"Cotting's Introduction to Chemistry," *Conversations on Chemistry*, and other cheap elementary works on that science will furnish an explanation of all the terms made use of by the writer, which are not sufficiently explained as they are introduced. Perspicuity is one of the greatest merits of the book, but some parts of it will need to be studied, and not rapidly hurried over as if it were a novel or romance, calculated merely to amuse. It has the merit of being better adapted to the climate and soil of New England than any European writings upon agriculture. Every page evinces that the writer is not a mere theorist, but has a practical knowledge of the art as well as the science of husbandry. The reputation of the book, however, is to well established to require our testimony in its favour. We shall therefore, conclude this article by merely naming some of the subjects treated of, which, when we assure our readers that they are very ably discussed, will better recommend the work than the most elaborate eulogy.

After describing the low state of Agriculture in the Province, the author recommends the establishment of agricultural societies, and gives a brief sketch of what should be their constitution and objects—describes the physical causes which influence and affect *climate*; shews that the cultivation of a territory moderates the rigor of its climate, and contrasts the present with the ancient state of Europe as delineated by classical writers. He devotes two chapters to proving that a gradual improvement has taken place in the climate of Nova Scotia since the first settlement of that country, to combat the prevailing prejudice which existed against the climate of Nova Scotia; and to show from the nature of its vegetable productions, that it will ripen all the bread corns. This part of the book is replete with consolation to our cultivators, who reside in the northern parts of New England, and entertain an opinion that the country is too cold for them to obtain a livelihood, and of course they must either starve or emigrate to the Ohio or Mississippi countries. The author then takes up the topic "of soil as the bed of vegetation, and lays down the simpler elements of agricultural chemistry;"—gives "some hints on the food of plants"—"Enumerates the uses which the soil serves in vegetation"—"Illustrates the physical properties of the four earths which chiefly constitute soils, and expresses the advantages of chemically analysing the latter"—"Describes the formation of soils as resulting from the disintegration of the primary and secondary rocks"—"Enumerates the purposes in agriculture served by the different instruments of tillage"—"Treats on ploughs, and expatiates on the benefit which would be gained by the introduction of the drill machinery"—"Treats on the harrow and roller, threshing mills, fans, the reaping machine, the patent sward cutter, the cultivator or grubber"—"Dilates on the nature of the animal and vegetable or putrescent manures"—"Shews how water and earth retain the gaseous and soluble principles of the putrescent manures"—"Discusses the doctrine of fermentation, and explains the nature of composts"—"Sets forth the nature and uses of peat, and its conversion into manure"—"Illustrates the character of fossil manure," lime, the mode of burning it, the manner in which it should be applied, its effects on vegetation, tests of gypsum, phosphate of lime, magnesia, burnt clay, &c. &c. —"Enters on the natural obstructions in the soil"—"The trees of the forest"—"The inequalities of the surface of the earth, which are preventive of tillage, stones, rocks, wetness, principles of draining"—"Takes a view of the cultivation of land as affecting the individual—society—and national wealth," and "concludes with considering land in relation to its employment of capital."

Such are the topics of this work, and as we said before they are discussed very ably. Some things in the book are local, and not particularly interesting to any except the inhabitants of Nova Scotia. But, on the whole we know of no foreign work of its price, (which is only $2,50 in boards) which can claim any competition with the "*Letters of Agricola*," as a treatise adapted to the use of New England Farmers.

Fire.—In Dorchester, on the 26th inst. a large wooden house was consumed by fire. This building contained the Printing Office of Mr. R. Bannister, printer and publisher of a religious paper, entitled "*The Monitor.*" All the printing apparatus, &c. fell a prey to the devouring element.

FOREIGN.

Spain.—The war in that country appears to be nearly at an end. The French troops are embarking for France at the date of the last accounts, and their commander was expected to arrive at Paris in the beginning of December. The French have celebrated their triumphs over the liberty and national independence by festivals and merry meetings. A Paris article of the 17th Oct. states that a general amnesty or act of oblivion for past offences has been passed, from which only nine of the Spaniards are excepted. The last intelligence from Gibraltar has been received by the way of England, and comes down to the 8th of October. At that time the English Embassador, Sir William A'Court, was about to proceed to Ferdinand's Court to resume his functions.

Spanish America.—Accounts from Campeachy represent Guatimala as in a state of anarchy. The great mixture of white Europeans, Creoles of all shades, Indians, free blacks and slaves, each jealous of the other, and all desirous to be superior, must produce very sanguinary scenes, should a civil war succeed to anarchy. In the centre of this territory, the British have the respectable and flourishing establishment of Honduras and have conciliated the affection of the neighboring Indians of what is called the *Mosquito Shore.*—Their king has been educated in England, is a Christian, and a great friend to the British nation, and to Missionary establishments. He can command nearly 2000 warriors, and in the event of a civil war, would probably place himself and nation under the protection of the British.

A law is in force in Holland which forbids schoolmasters receiving as pupils, children who have not had the small pox, or been vaccinated.

Interesting to the Proprietors of Steam Packets, &c.—We understand that Sir Humphrey Davy has, within the last month, discovered that the application of a certain gas, fifteen times heavier than the atmosphere, to the mechanism of a steam engine, will produce a power fully equal to that which now results from the application of steam. The great obstacle which stands in the way of the general and immediate introduction into use of this gas is the difficulty of confining it. The task of constructing convenient vessels, sufficiently strong for that purpose, Sir Humphrey proposes as a problem, the solution of which must be attended with inestimable benefits to this country.

Capt. G T. Scobell, R. N. has recently submitted to the Board of Admiralty, a plan for applying impelling wheels, in periods of calm and smooth water, to the ships of the British Navy. It is applicable to every class of men of war, from the largest to the smallest, and the wheels may be worked by hand winches or the capstan, and are so constructed that they may be dissected with facility, and taken on board in seven or eight minutes. The principle is available to steam vessels, and would materially alter their character, extend their uses, and increase their safety.

DOMESTIC.

Calamitous Accident.—On the 23d ult. two young women, attempting to ford the Ousatonic river in Southbury, Con. the horse took a wrong direction, and stumbled in deep water, one of them was drowned, and the other escaped by her clothes catching on the saddle, by which means she was dragged ashore.

Mr. Phineas Johnson (aged 43) was drowned on Tuesday, the 18th inst. while attempting to cross the Connecticut river on the ice, about a mile north of this village. The next day his hat was seen under the ice; and this was the first intimation given, of his condition. The body was found on Thursday, and on Suturday it was buried.—*Bellows Falls Intell.*

Fires.—On the 3d instant, nearly 12 o'clock at night, a steam flour mill owned by Mr. Ormsby, Cincinnati. Ohio, was consumed by fire, and but a small part of its contents were saved. The cause of the combustion, we have not seen stated. Loss estimated at $100,000.

On Wednesday morning last, the large tavern of Mr. Jackson, in Belfast, Me. was consumed by fire, and sad to relate, his amiable daughter, aged 16 years, perished in the flames. The fire communicated to the dwelling house of George Watson, Esq. formerly of this city, to the stores of John Angier, Esq. and Mr. S. B. Merrill, and five or six barns, all of which, with a part of their contents, were destroyed, notwithstanding the spirited exertions of the citizens to save them. The Editors of the Belfast Gazette and Patriot, add.—"Mr. Angier's store is adjacent to our office, and we are now printing this while our friends are anxiously protecting us from the flames. A short time since it was thought a large portion of our village could not be saved from the devouring element; but we hope the danger is subsided. We have neither time nor heart to add more particulars."

The Carding, Fulling, and Dying Factory of Capt. Goodwin, of Bangor, Me. with all the machinery, was destroyed by fire the 27th ult. Loss estimated at 9,500 dollars.—*Boston Centinel of the 22d inst.*

Fatal Accident.—A young man by the name of Lewis K. Upham, of Bennington, Vt. was killed, by the accidental discharge of a gun, while on a hunting party. He survived the wound about 38 or 40 minutes after the ball passed through his body.

Miss Eliza Parsons, of North Yarmouth, Maine, has wrought a bonnet of native grass, said to have been equal to any exhibited in Massachusetts or Connecticut; a lady of Portland purchased the bonnet at $30.

Extraordinary Crop.—Ephraim Wood, Esq. of Camden, sowed 5 bushels and 3 pecks of rye in September, 1822, on about 5 acres of ground newly cleared of the wood, which produced 240 Bushels—over 40 bushels to the bushel sowing, and about 48 to the acre. Its being sown early and on good ground occasioned a large number of shoots to spring from one root—in one bunch was 140 stalks containing 4379 kernels, the production of one single grain! Would not our crops of winter rye generally be much better if the seed were sown much earlier than usual?

A Warning to the Intemperate!—Mr. Silas Graves, of Hatfield, Mass. of great property but no family, committed suicide in that town last week. He had lately become intemperate, and his mind had been haunted with continual fears of poverty, which are supposed to have occasioned the melancholy act.

Extensive Fraud.—We learn that money to the amount of *eight thousand dollars* has been drawn out of the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster, by means of checks forged in the name of Mr. Jacobs iron master, Lancaster county.—The last of these checks was presented for payment about a month ago, but it was not till this week that the fraud was discovered.

[*Phil. Gazette.*

Murder.—A man was found mangled in a shocking manner this morning, in Water street. A rope was fastened round his neck, and it is supposed the perpetrator of the deed was dragging his victim towards the water, but was interrupted.—*New York Statesman.*

☞ NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS indebted for the first volume of the Farmer, are earnestly requested to make immediate payment at this office. The sum due from each is small, but the aggregate amounts to a large sum, and unless received soon, the subscriber will suffer very serious inconvenience in consequence.

Nov. 29, 1823. THOMAS W. SHEPARD.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

FOR sale by WELLS & LILLY, No. 98, Court St. the New England Farmer, or Georgical Dictionary, containing a compendious account of the Ways and Methods in which the important art of *Husbandry*, in all its various branches is, or may be pursued to the greatest advantage in this country. By SAMUEL DEANE, D. D. &c. *Third edition*, corrected, improved, greatly enlarged, and adapted to the present state of Agriculture. Price, neatly bound and lettered, *Two Dollars.* November 1.

FARMER'S ALMANAC, FOR 1824.

FOR sale at this Office, the Farmer's Almanac for 1824. Nov. 24.

JACK FOR SALE.

BARBAROSSA, a Jack, bred by the subscriber, from a large Spanish Jennet, and sired by an imported Maltese Jack of the pure *Onagra* stock, is offered for sale. He is now two years and four months old, measures 14, and will, when at his full growth, undoubtedly exceed 15 hands in height—uniting the bone and power of the large Spanish breed, with the spirit, activity and vigor of the Maltese. At the late exhibition at Brighton, he was pronounced, by several gentlemen of respectibility, who have examined this species of stock in Spain, the Islands in the Mediteranean, and in South America, to be superior to any they ever saw.

BARBAROSSA is perfectly docile and kind, was kept with a Filly immediately after weaning, and has *propensities*, seldom found in imported Jacks, which must enhance his value in the estimation of those accustomed to breeding mules. A full warranty of his powers will accompany the bill of sale—and the subscriber has no hesitation in asserting that he is equal to the celebrated Jack, *Compound*, bred by Gen. Washington; (being of the same grade) and that he is superior to any now in the United States or that can be imported.

If not applied for speedily he will be shipped to the Island of Cuba, where a much higher price can be obtained than is now asked. S. W. POMEROY.

Brighton, Nov. 21, 1823.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	140	145
pearl do.		135	137 50
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs. new,	bbl.	8 00	8 25
cargo, No 1,		6 25	6 50
" No 2,		5 25	5 50
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual. new	lb.	12	13
" 2d qual.		9	11
small kegs, family,		16	18
CHEESE, new milk		7	10
skimed milk,		3	4
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	83	88
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	7 75	
Genessee,		7 75	
Rye, best		3 75	
GRAIN, Rye	bush	60	
Corn		55	65
Barley		67	70
Oats			40
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	10	11
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		28	32
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 17
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	60	70
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	3 00	3 25
PORK, Bone Middlings new,	bbl.	14 50	15 00
Cargo, No 1,		12 00	
Cargo, No 2,		11 00	11 25
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	2 00	
Clover	lb.	7	8
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		58	70
do do unwashed		37	40
do 3-4 washed		45	50
do 1-2 do		37	40
Native do		31	33
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		50	00
do Spinning, 1st sort		40	42
PROVISION MARKET.			
BEEF, best pieces	lb.	7	10
PORK, fresh		5	7
VEAL,		3	8
MUTTON and LAMB,		2	8
POULTRY,		8	10
BUTTER, keg & tub, family,		14	16
lump, best		17	20
EGGS,	doz.	16	20
MEAL, Rye,	bush	75	
Indian,		75	
POTATOES,		30	37
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 25	2 50
HAY, according to quality,	ton.	17 00	20 00

From the New England Galaxy.

AUTUMN.

How dear to roam along the sunny hills,
When Autumn spreads her bounties on the plain;
When Industry his garner'd treasure fills
With richest stores from fields of ripen'd grain;
When slow across the fields the ponderous wain,
Deep laden with the yellow ears, is drawn,
Lie scatter'd thick and far along the level lawn.

The winding rill along the sunny vale
Sings its sweet song to cheer the reaper's heart;
And oft its voice the pensive autumn gale
Will join, and cause the rustling leaves to start;
While scores of screaming blackbirds bear their part,
With varied notes, yet full of melody;
And troops of noisy boys, with dog and cart,
Are hasting to the hills with youthful glee,
To shake the clustering nuts from the tall walnut tree.

But soon this beauteous pageantry shall fail,
And every mellow tint of Autumn fade;
A melancholy murmur fills the gale,
And sorrow saddens o'er the yellowing glade;
Through thickening clouds the suns of autumn wade,
And beauty sits upon the hills no more;
The verdure of the wood is prostrate laid,
And soon the autumn rains begin to pour,
And down the craggy rocks the swelling torrents roar.

Such is the fortune of majestic man!
The leaves of fragrance round his forehead flow,
The laureate wreath, that gales of fortune fan,
For which he climbed so high or stooped so low;
But soon approach the tempest-clouds of wo,
To mar the beauty of his brightest deed;
Yet while he mourns his fortune's overthrow,
He looks to heaven for some more glorious mead;—
Thus to the autumn winds I tune my Dorick reed.

LLEWELLYN.

WATER COLORS.

"Your cottons," says Flavia, "are cheating vile trash!
See! the colors all gone, though you said they would wash!"
"Yes, madam," the shopkeeper answer'd, "no doubt,
I said they would wash—but I meant they'd WASH OUT."

MISCELLANY.

From the New York American.

Choice of a Wife.—There is one apology, in the increasing extravagance of the modern fair, for the ridiculous rage that exists among the gentlemen, after rich sweethearts; and maidens have a not less tenable excuse for making sure of a full purse, since an empty head is very likely to accompany it.

The really prudent, and somewhat homebred man, feels obliged to relinquish the idea of marriage altogether, or defer it to a late period, because it is justly considered a hazardous adventure to marry, on the score of supporting the expenses of a modern living. But this idea shall have a separate chapter.

The first inquiry that our young men make now, when a woman is proposed for a wife is, "is she rich?" And for variety, or a salvo, "is she handsome?" Let a husband die and leave a rich widow; or a rich heiress drop into the market, Lord bless us! how the beaux scamper,

——————"Hound-like,
In full cry to catch her!"

If there is any shame in this state of things, if sacrificing feelings, that should have their source in the most generous and elevated considerations to "*beauty and booty*," is worthy of abhorrence; then, methinks, the present generation deserves an unenviable share of "*blushing* honors."

It is not very likely I shall have much cash to give with my daughters; and in fact, I don't want any to give. God grant they may have good sense, a wholesome appearance, unsuspected virtue, affectionate hearts, industrious habits, and then—why, if nobody wants to marry them, they shall help to comfort me in my old age, and help to bear up my spirit when about to "return to Him who gave it."

I am an old fashioned fellow, it is true; but I recollect, when I got married, I made no account of money; and if I was going to marry again, I would look for a poor girl rather than a rich one. If I have a wife, a good one is essential to my happiness, and riches are not. The Athenian General was right: "I had rather marry my daughter to a *man*, without an estate, than to an *estate*, without a man." LABAN.

From the New York American.

An interesting, but care-worn mendicant, in vacant mood and mind, entered the store of a wealthy merchant in this city, and as he paced along, his eyes rested upon an unusual quantity of silver and gold coin, which the clerks were busied in counting. His heart sunk within him as he felt the chill of November, which reminded him of the poverty of his lot and the misery of his family, and turning away in despair, he ejaculated to himself, "how happy some of that money would make me!" "What is that you say, my friend?" interrogated the merchant. The confused mendicant begged to be excused:—he was not conscious of uttering any thing at the moment; at any rate, his thought was not meant for his ear. But the kind hearted merchant would not take denial, and the poor man repeated what before had involuntarily broken from his lips. "And how much my dear fellow, would it take to make you happy?" O, I dont know! the winter is coming on apace, and I have no wood; my wife and children are but poorly clad, for I have been sick. Our wants are limited, however, and fifteen dollars would dissipate the gloom of winter." "John count this man 15 dollars." The ingenuous heart can *feel* like the grateful stranger, the nobleness of such bounty, and exult for human nature that meek eyed charity should find such kindred abode. At evening the clerk enquired, what entry he should make of the money? "O say, by making a man happy, $15," answered the no less eccentric, than humane merchant.

A gentleman of Liverpool, scorning the vulgar method of getting a wife by advertising for one in the newspapers, has adopted the new system of issuing cards of which the following is a copy: "Notice is hereby given, that a young man of 23 years of age, in the sea-faring line, dark complexion, and rather low, is in want of a wife; an 18 year damsel will meet with a favorable reception."

The female peasants on the River *Loire*, in France, have a mode of spinning, which enables them to perform the operation as they walk along the streets and roads. The distaff, having a long handle, is held under the left arm; the spool terminates at one end in an iron pin pointed and made rough, so that with the thumb and finger of the right hand, a rapid twirl is easily given it, which draws out and twists the thread; The spool hanging loose as it runs round. The thread is then wound up, and another twirl is given in the same way. They spin hemp in this manner with facility as they watch their goats, sheep or cows, grazing in the fields."—*Griscom's* "*Year in Europe.*"

Premium Silk Handkerchiefs.—We were much gratified to observe among the great variety of articles of domestic manufacture exhibited at the Fair of the Mechanic and Scientific Institution, the silk handkerchiefs which obtained the premium presented by the manufacturer, Mr. Wm. Bryan; as also, the specimens of the same description of goods wove at the expense of Mr. Bryan, by Benjamin Yates, an ingenious manufacturer of this city. The elegance and variety of patterns, and the brilliancy and beauty of the colors do much credit to the artists.

All the specimens were printed by Mr. Bryan, whose establishment has obtained a deserved celebrity.—*N. Y. Statesman.*

We mention it as a circumstance highly creditible to the character of our city that, notwithstanding its immense population, comprising people from almost all quarters of the world, the grand jury of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, which was opened at the City Hall yesterday with an appropriate charge from judge Edwards, was only out of Court fifteen minutes, when they returned, stating that no business had been laid before them, and they knew of none within the sphere of their duties—whereupon they were discharged.—*Ibid.*

Important improvement in Tanning.—Mr. Gybon Spillsbury of Walsale, Staffordshire, we understand, has succeeded in reducing the hitherto tedious process of tanning to a very short period. Skins are prepared by his process in nine days, requiring by the old six weeks or two months. Moderately thick hides 5-8th inch thick in six weeks: these take commonly from nine to twelve months. The leather is in every respect equal in strength and toughness, and will be superior to any hitherto produced. There is no difference in the substances employed, but only in the method of applying them. The principle is *pressure*. This important invention has been secured by patents for the three kingdoms.—*Lon. Lit. Gaz.*

Native Opium.—Messrs. Cowley and Staines, Pennsylvania, have commenced the cultivation of Poppies for Opium. They made 60 lbs. this year. The opium is obtained from incisions. Oil is got from the seeds, and cattle are fed with the cake.

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

☞ Published every Saturday, at THREE DOLLARS per annum, payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within *sixty days* from the time of subscribing will be entitled to a deduction of FIFTY CENTS.